F- 3 - 158 James Houck Farm 8032C Liberty Road Frederick County

This complex of farm buildings dates from the 1870s to the early 20th century. It is located approximately 1/4 mile west of the Monocacy River on the north side of Liberty Road (Route 26), northeast of Frederick City. The property consists of a 2 1/2-story brick dwelling, probably dating to the 1870s; a brick carriage house/garage (late 19th century/early 20th century); a brick barn (originally, late 19th century/early 20th century; with a contemporary alteration); a wood pump house (early 20th century); and a modern Ranch house (second half, 20th century). Apart from the Ranch house, the property is significant architecturally as an intact farmstead from the Industrial/Urban Dominance period of development in the Piedmont region and is particularly noteworthy for the quality and scale of the main residence. It sits upon lawn owned in 1858 by Ezra Houck that passed into the hand of James Houck by 1873. The dwelling was most likely constructed by James Houck close to the start of the fourth quarter of the 19th century. James Houck was a prominent landowner, farmer, and bank president of the period.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES	Inventory No.	F-3-158
1. Name of Property		
historic name James Houck House common/other name Lynch Property		
2. Location	-23522552235222	
street & number 8032C Liberty Road not city or town Frederick vicinity X stacounty Frederick code zi	ate Maryland	code MD
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
4. National Park Service Certification	N/A	
5. Classification		
X private public-local public-State public-Federal  Category of Property (Check only one box	)	
_1 building(s) district site structure object		
Number of Resources within Property  Contributing Noncontributing		
<u>1</u> s	buildings sites structures objects Fotal	
Is this property listed in the National F  Yes Name of Listing  No $X$	Register?	

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Inventory No.F-3-158 8032C Liberty Road Page 2 Frederick County, Maryland 6. Function or Use \_\_\_\_\_\_ Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling DOMESTIC Secondary Structure AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Barn AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE Agricultural Outbuilding Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Business VACANT 7. Description \_\_\_\_\_\_ Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Italianate \_\_\_\_\_ Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Stone roof Cross Gable: Patterned Slate Shingles walls Brick: 7:1 Bond other \_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

See Continuation Sheet No. 7-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. F-3-158
Page 3

8032C Liberty Road Frederick County, Maryland

8. State	ment o	of Significance
Applicab boxes for Register	or th	tional Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more criteria qualifying the property for National
	_ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	_ B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	_ c	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	_ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria	Consi	derations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
	_ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
****	В	removed from its original location.
	_ c	a birthplace or a grave.
••••	_ D	a cemetery.
	_ E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
<del></del>	F	a commemorative property.
	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. F-3-158

8032C Liberty Road Frederick County, Maryland	Page 4
Areas of Significance (Enter categories frachitecture	com instructions)
Period of Significance circa 1870s	· <del></del>
Significant Dates circa 1870s	
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion	
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder Unknown	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explantable property.)	ain the significance of
See Continuation Sheet No.	8-1

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Inventory No. F-3-158
Page 5

8032C Liberty Road Frederick County, Maryland

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, legal records, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bond, Issac. Map of Frederick County, 1858

Frederick County Land Records

Frederick County Will Records

Holdcraft, Jacob M. Names in Stone, v. 1. Privately published. 1966

Martin, John S. Genealogical Index to Frederick County, Maryland. Privately published, 1992.

Sharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland, v. 1. Philadelphia: L.H. Everts and Co., 1882, p. 545.

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, Maryland, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey. History of Frederick County, Maryland. Frederick: L.R. Titsworth & Co., 1910. Revised 1979, Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., pp. 1375-1376.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties			
8032C Liberty Road Frederick County, Maryland	Inventory Page		<u>-158</u>
10. Geographical Data		======	====
Acreage of Property less than one acre	========	======	====
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the property.)	boundari	es of	the
The property designated 8032C Liberty Road is a 1995 Addition Plat, Worman*s Mill*s Addition Addition to Worman*s Mill.	identified to Lynch a	as suc	h on ch#s
Boundary Justification (Explain why the bound:	aries were	select	ed.)
The boundaries include the parcel of land whic complex of 19th and 20th-century resi residential and agricultural buildings.	h contains dential,	a cohe:	sive ated
======================================		=====:	====
name/title Kimberly Prothro Williams, Archite organization	late June 1 ephone 202	. 1998	558
12. Property Owner		======	====
namestreet & numberstat	telep	hone _	<del></del>
		=	==

# MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES CONTINUATION SHEET Inventory No. F-3-158

Section 7 Page 1

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

#### SUMMARY

This complex of farm buildings dates from the 1870s to the early 20th century and is located approximately 1/4 mile west of the Monocacy River on the north side of Liberty Road (Route 26), northeast of Frederick City.

The property consists of the following historic structures:

- 1) a 2 1/2-story, brick house, probably dating to the 1870s;
- 2) a brick carriage house/garage (late 19th-century/early
  20th-century);
- 3) a brick barn, now encased within a 20th-century veterinarian clinic (late 19th century/early 20th century); and
- 4) a small, wood pump house (early 20th century).

A brick summer kitchen with attached frame chicken houses/sheds (late 19th century) was also located on the property. It was demolished between 1996 and 1998. The parcel also has a onestory modern Ranch-style dwelling at the north, or rear end of the lot.

The property is situated close to a busy interchange, increasingly commercial in nature. The house\*s immediate setting is still residential; enhanced by formal shrubs and mature trees.

#### Main Dwelling

The main dwelling is an impressive, 2 1/2-story Italianate brick structure of L-shaped footprint with a cross-gable patterned slate roof. The house was likely built in the 1870s, based on visual evidence and historic maps. The main block is five-bays wide with a central gable that spans nearly the entire elevation

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory N

Inventory No. F-3-158

Section 7 Page 2

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

and a one-story bracketed front porch. The porch has a concrete base, square piers, scroll-sawn brackets, and a dentil molding. The brick walls of the house are constructed in 7:1 American bond, and currently painted white. The ashlar stone foundation is slightly raised above ground level. The roof is slate (scalloped and plain shingles), and extends in deep eaves with simple molding. Interior chimneys are located at the east and west gable ends of the main section.

A two-story rear service wing extends from the northwest corner of the main section. This wing is four bays long and may have been built in two stages (indicated by a seam in the roof). On the west elevation, a one-story entry porch and doorway are located at the junction of the wing and main section.

Segmentally arched windows prevail throughout the house. Those on the facade are 1/1 and those on the wing, 2/2. The windows on the south elevation of the main block are full-length on the first floor and feature louvered shutters on the second. The center window on the second floor is paired. The windows in the gable ends are full size and feature round heads. The interior features intact interior shutters.

The main entryway on the south elevation features a flat transom and narrow sidelights. Scroll brackets flank the door rail. The door itself suggests an early 20th-century replacement. A smaller doorway on the east side of the rear wing suggests the original configuration: arched molding forming twin panels over a raised panel base.

The gable walls of the main block are two bays dep. The south bay of the west wall features a one-story, three-sided bay window with dentil molding and scroll brackets, segmental arched

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES CONTINUATION SHEET Inv

Inventory No. \_F-3-158

Section 7 Page 3

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

windows, and a paneled base. The attic level of each gable elevation contains a single round-arched window centered in the gable.

The rear wing of the house originally had a two-story open porch recessed into the east elevation; a typical Frederick County The last bay of this wall protrudes from the recessed porch in an original brick enclosure that probably housed a pantry on the first floor and perhaps a storage room or closet on the second floor. The first story of the porch has a concrete base which covers an underground cistern. A modern wood exterior stairway at the northeast corner of the wing leads to one of the second-story apartments. At the northwest corner of the wing, an original window on the first story has been altered to provide a door into the first-floor unit. The opening has been partially infilled with brick. In the early 1950s, the second story porch on the east wall of the wing was enclosed. The new exterior is press board horizontal lapped siding. Modern casement windows light this enclosed area.

The original plan featured a central-passage, two-room deep main block and a service wing. Although the floor plan is still relatively intact, a considerable number of additional partition walls erected in the mid-20th century can be found in the northeastern part of the first floor. These were mostly added to create a bathroom, closets, and a dressing area. The staircase features a mahogany top rail; dark-stained, turned balusters and newel post; and bracketed closer design. The second story landing is now enclosed. The first story floors are covered with carpet in most areas, but the stair treads and other visible sections are pine boards. The plaster walls are covered with mid-20th century wallpaper. The door frames in the center hall have shallow pediments and crossetted frames. In the

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Inve

Inventory No. F-3-158

Section 7 Page 4

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

flanking parlor spaces, the door and window frames are slightly pedimented, but do not have crossettes. In both sides of the first story, the fireplace openings are closed off and the mantelpieces have been removed.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

There are two rooms located on the first floor of the rear service wing. The one nearest the main section apparently served as the original dining room. A simple wood mantelpiece with wood brackets is located on the wall between the two rooms of the wing. Its exterior chimney is still intact above the slate roof of the wing. The northernmost room of the wing, the original kitchen, has been considerably altered, but an enclosed stairway to the second floor is still located at the north end of the room.

The second story of the house has much of the same door and window trim as in the first story. Two small, simple wood mantels with Tudor-arched openings and plain surfaces are located in the chambers to either side of the main hall.

#### Outbuildings

Carriage House/Garage: Located behind the house and slightly to the west, this two-story brick building was probably designed as a carriage house or early garage. It features a standing-seam metal roof and two, 1/1 windows in the gable end. The west elevation has a wide area of brick infill, indicating that the building housed a vehicle(s). A door cut and 3/3 window have been added to the south elevation. A metal, leanto garage also has been added to the north wall.

Barn/Animal Hospital: The 1 1/2-story brick structure that is now used as the principal building of the Glade Valley Animal

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

IT

Inventory No. F-3-158

Section 7 Page 5

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

Hospital was probably erected in the late 19th century as the main barn. It features the same, scalloped barge board as the summer kitchen and indicates a similar construction period. It is located northwest of the house, parallel to the driveway. A painting of the farmstead done in the 1950s by an owner\*s daughter showed that the building originally featured a series of vehicle doors along its east elevation. The original barn building is currently encased on three sides by a brick veneered, one-story shed structure that services the Animal Hospital. This addition surrounds the barn, projecting at the northeast corner. The building\*s gable roof is currently covered with asphalt shingles.

Pump House: This one-story, flush vertical board pump house is located immediately east of the carriage house/garage at the rear of the main dwelling\*s north wing. Its gable roof is covered in asphalt shingle. A door is cut into the south gable wall and the west wall features a 2/2 window.

Summer Kitchen/Chicken House: Prior to its demolition, this onestory, detached brick structure was located approximately 25 feet from the rear of the ell and likely served as the summer kitchen. It featured a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles and an interior end chimney along the north wall. A paneled and glazed door was located in the west elevation. The building has serpentine barge boards at its eaves; a feature found on several of the outbuildings. The structure featured two, 6/6 windows.

Attached to the north gable end of the summer kitchen are two frame structures likely built in the early 20th century. The northernmost section was probably a free-standing chicken house. It featured board and batten siding and a standing seam metal roof. At a later date, still in the early 20th century, a one-

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES CONTINUATION SHEET Inventory No.  $\underline{F-3-158}$ 

Section 7 Page 6

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

story frame structure was built between the north end of the summer kitchen and the chicken house, linking the two. The infill may have been a feed shed, and had tongue-and-groove siding and a shed metal roof.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET Inventory No. F-3-158

Section 8 Page 1

James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

The James Houck farmstead is significant architecturally as a Late Victorian farmstead and represents the distinctive characteristics of this type of property in Frederick County. It was built by one of the members of a locally prominent family. The buildings at the farm reflect the physical layout of a 4th quarter farmyard at a time when farming was the way of life for most residents of the County. The main dwelling is an Italianate mansion befitting a wealthy farmer of the area. The individual outbuildings within the complex represent good examples of domestic and agricultural architecture of the period. The brick construction of the corresponding outbuildings and the barge boards on the eaves of the barn and summer kitchen further unite the grouping of buildings on the lot into a harmonious whole.

The main house appears to have been built by James Houck (1844-1931), a wealthy farmer and president of the Franklin Savings Bank of Frederick, who, with his brothers, held four farms in the immediate area. The Houck family brothers descended from prominent landowner and businessman Ezra Houck (1802-1878) and his wife, Catharine Bentz Houck. James Houck graduated from Frederick public schools and Frederick City College. He entered the drygoods businessman, but eventually returned to the family\*s farm to make a living. His home farm (the house documented) contained 205 acres of agricultural land. He also owned three additional farms beyond the Liberty Road farm, making Mr. Houck one of the county\*s largest land owners. Houck was a Democrat and served for many years as the president of the Franklin Savings bank. He married Alice Cramer in 1869 and had three children.

Houck\*s dwelling, though not ornate, is imposing in its ample proportions and very soundly constructed. It features the footprint, massing, segmentally arched windows, bracketed porches, and cross-gable roof typical of the development of Frederick County in the beginning of the 4th quarter of the 19th

### MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

CONTINUATION SHEET Inventory No. F-3-158

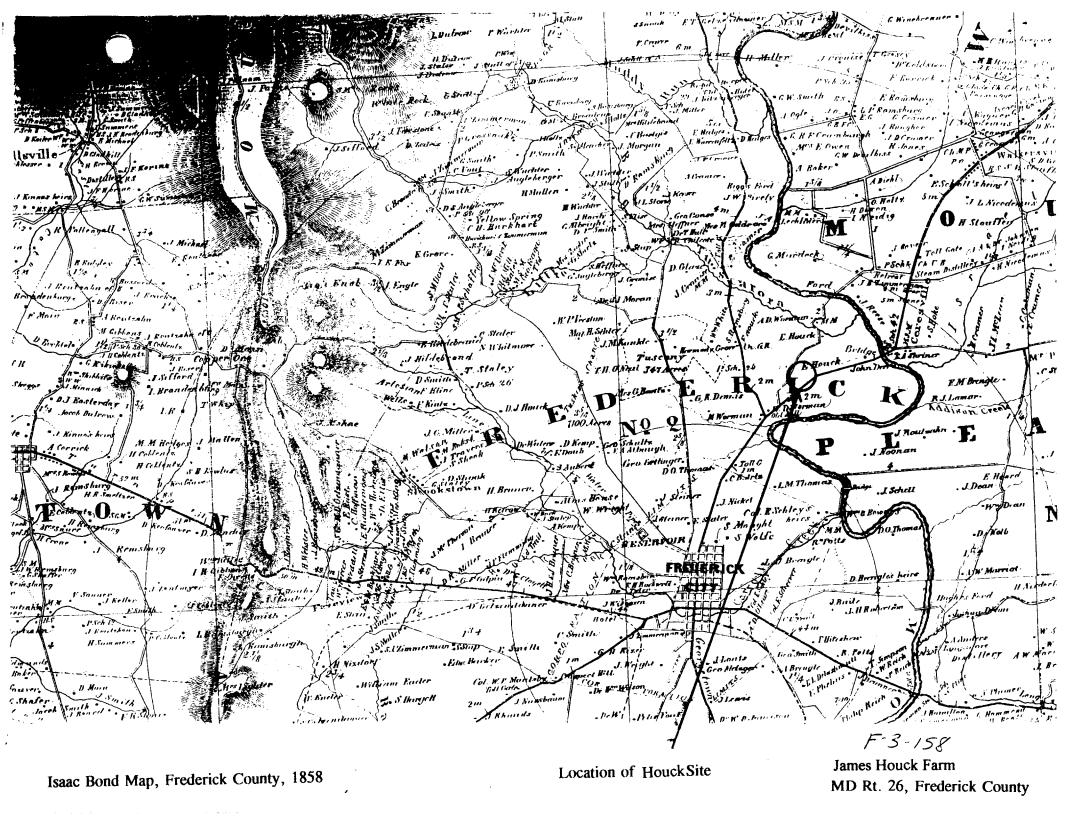
Section 8 Page 2

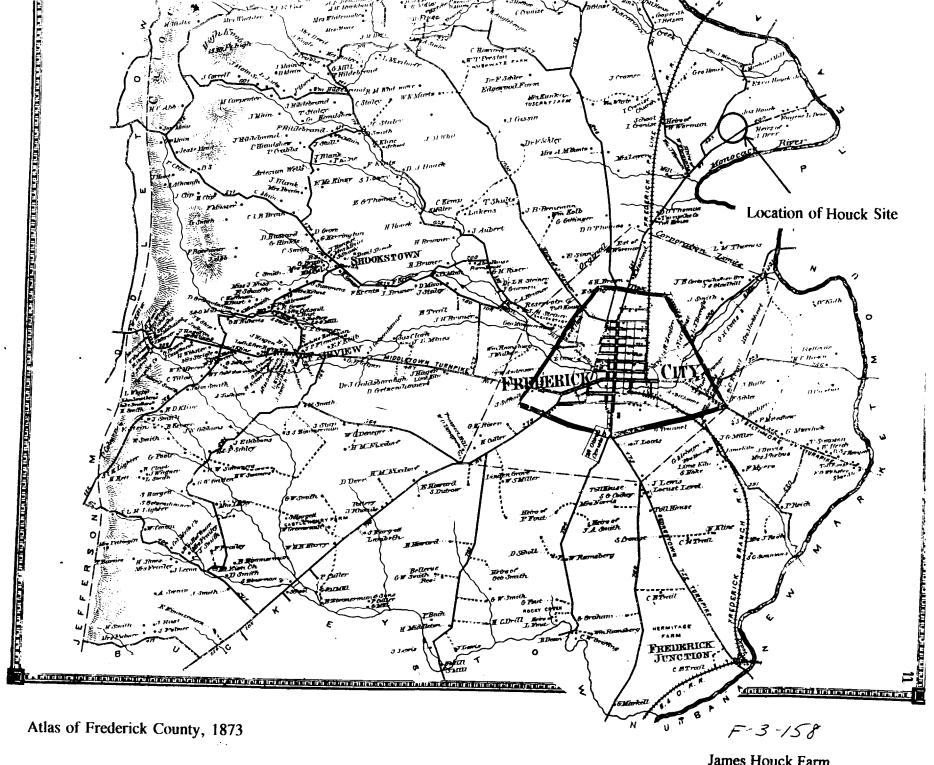
James Houck House
name of property
Frederick County, MD
county and state

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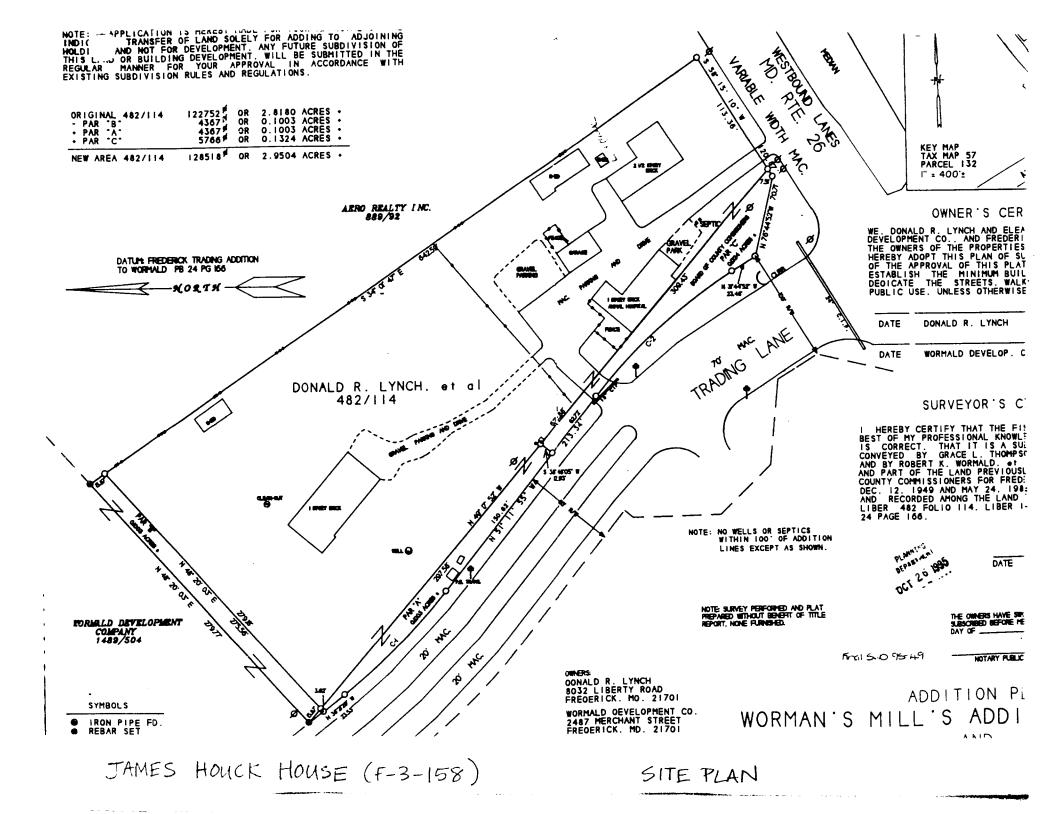
century.

Two other extant Houck houses noted for their architectural significance were built by George and Ezra Houck, Jr. (brothers of James). Spring Bank (MHT form F-3-22; National Register of Historic Places) is an 1880 Italianate villa built by George Houck. The Ezra Houck, Jr. House (or, the Professional Building) at 228 N. Market Street in Frederick (FHD-143) is an 1893 dwelling in an eclectic version of the Queen Anne style. Also significant in architecture, but no longer in existence, was the George Houck House, more commonly called Mill Pond House or the Bowers Farms (MHT Form F-3-138), a circa 1820-1825 brick farmhouse erected by the grandfather of the three Houck brothers.

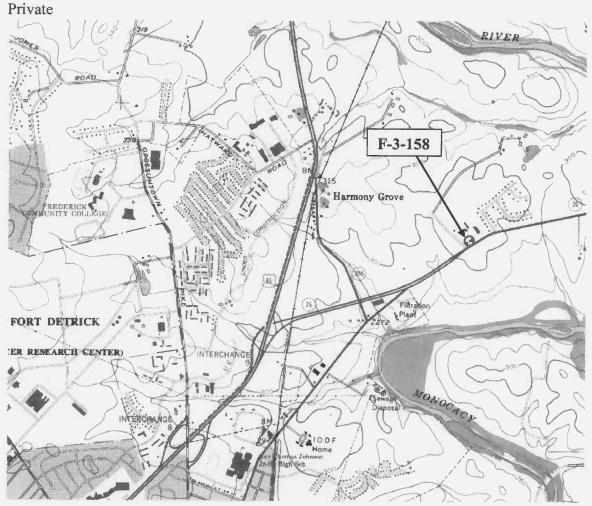




James Houck Farm
MD Rt. 26, Frederick County



F-3-158 James Houck Farm, site (Lynch Property) 8032C Liberty Road (MD 26) Frederick





F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RD
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD
MAY 1998
MD SHPO
VIEW LOOKING NW

1/10



F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RD
FREDERICK, MD
KIM WILLIAMS

MAY 1998

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NE



F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE

8032 LIBERTY ROAD

FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

KIM WILLIAMS

MAY 1998

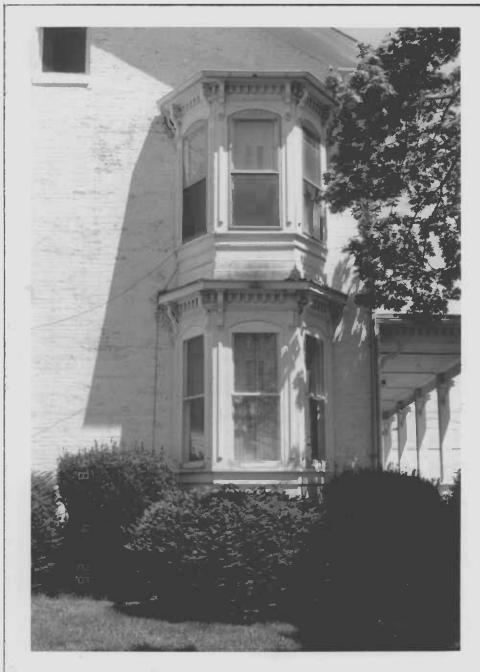
VIEW LOOKING WEST

MB SHYO

3/10



F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY ROAD
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD
KIM WILLIAMS
MAY 1998
MD SHPO
VIEW LOOKING SOUTH
4/10



LYNCH PROPERTY / JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY ROAD
FREDERICK COUNTY, MD
KIM WILLIAMS
MAY 1998
PE MD SHPO
DETAIL OF BAY, SW ELEVATION
5/10



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F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HONCK HOUSE

8032 LIBERTY RD

FREDERICK COUNTY, MD

KIM WILLIAMS

MAY 1998

MO SHPO

GARAGE (VIEW LOOKING WEST)

6/10
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LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RD
FREDERICK CO, MD
KIM WILLIAMS
MAY 1998
MD SHPO
CENTER STAIR HALL
7/10

F-3-158



WNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RD
FREDERICK CO, MD
KIM WILLIAMS
MAY 1998
MD SHPO
VIEW FROM CENTER STAIR HALL
LOOKING INTO WEST FRONT PARLOR
8/10

F-3-158



LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RIS
FREDERICK CO, MD
KIM WILLIAMS
MAY 1998
MD SHPO
2ND FLOOR FRONT BEDROOM

F-3-158



F-3-158
LYNCH PROPERTY/JAMES HOUCK HOUSE
8032 LIBERTY RD
FREDERICK CO, MD
RIM WILLIAMS

MAY 1998

MOSHPO

10/10

2ND FLOOR STAIR